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Britannia (1806 EIC ship)

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For other ships with the same name, see Britannia (ship).

Britannia was launched in 1806 as an East Indiaman for the British East India Company. She made only one voyage for the company before a gale wrecked her in January 1809.

Captain Jonathan Birch received a letter of marque on 3 November 1806. He sailed *Britannia* from Portsmouth on 26 February 1807, bound for Bombay and China. He returned from that voyage on 1 July 1808.[3]

Birch and *Britannia* were in the Downs on 24 January 1809, prior to setting out on a second voyage to the east, this time to Madras and China.[3]

The next day, 25 January, a howling gale tore her from her moorings off Deal, Kent, and she wrecked on the Goodwin Sands off the South Foreland.[5] Seven of her crew drowned.[6] The EIC valued her cargo at £57,091;[7] the total loss, vessel plus cargo, was £117,820.[8]

The gale also wrecked the Indiaman *Admiral Gardner* and the brig *Apollo*. Only one man of *Apollo*'s crew of 20 survived.[9] Boatmen from Deal were able to rescue almost the entire crew from *Admiral Gardner*. A few days later, *Lloyd's List* reported that all three wrecked vessels had gone to pieces.[10]

History	
United Kingdom	
Name:	*Britannia*
Owner:	British East India Company[1]
Builder:	Perry & Wells, Blackwall[1]
Launched:	29 September 1806[1]
Fate:	Wrecked 25 January 1809
General characteristics	
Tons burthen:	1200,[2] 1273,[3] or 1273 73/94,[1] or 1349,[4] (bm)
Length:	165 ft 5½ in (50.4 m) (overall)[3] 133 ft 7½ in (40.7 m) (keel)[3]
Beam:	42 ft 4 in (12.9 m)[3]
Depth of hold:	17 ft 1 in (5.2 m)[3]
Complement:	138[4]
Armament:	38 x 9&18-pounder guns[4]

The wrecks of *Britannia* and *Admiral Gardner*, East Indiamen, on the Goodwin Sands, 24 January 1809

Citations and references [edit source]

Citations

1. ^ a b c d Hackman (2001), p. 72.
2. ^ Cotton (1949), p. 137.
3. ^ a b c d e f g British Library: *Britannia* (9).
4. ^ a b c Letter of Marque, 1793–1815, p.54; Archived 9 July 2015 at the Wayback Machine
5. ^ *The Times* (№7581). London. 28 January 1809. col D, p. 3.
6. ^ *The Tradesman*, (1809), Vol. 2, p.271.
7. ^ House of Commons (1830), p. 977.
8. ^ *Asiatic Journal and Monthly Miscellany*. (July 1816, Vol. 2, p.38.
9. ^ *Lloyd's List* №4322.
10. ^ *Lloyd's List* №4324.

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- Cotton, Sir Evan (1949). Fawcet, Sir Charles (ed.). *East Indiamen: The East India Company's Maritime Service*. London: Batchworth Press.
- Hackman, Rowan (2001). *Ships of the East India Company*. Gravesend, Kent: World Ship Society. ISBN 0-905617-96-7.
- House of Commons, Parliament, Great Britain (1830). *Reports from the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to enquire into the present state of the affairs of the East India Company, together with the minutes of evidence, an appendix of documents, and a general index*. **2**.

V · T · E **Shipwrecks and maritime incidents in 1809** [show]

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